	K-12 Education	Postsecondary Education	Practical Application
What is the Law?	IDEA: Individuals With Disabilities Education Act 504: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. ADA: Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990.	504: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, particular reference to Subpart E ADA: Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990.	Section 504(e) and ADA are not about special education services, they are about nondiscrimination and access for eligible individuals with disabilities.
What is the intent of the law?	IDEA: To provide a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment to identified students with disabilities, including special education and related services. 504/ADA: To ensure that no otherwise qualified person with a disability is denied access to, benefits of, or subject to discrimination solely on the basis of disability.	504/ADA: To ensure that no otherwise qualified person with a disability is denied access to, benefits of, or is subject to discrimination solely on the basis of disability.	The IDEA meets the specific special education needs of the student and modifies the program accordingly. Section 504(e) and ADA allow eligible individuals with disabilities the same access to programs, activities and services as their nondisabled peers.
Who is covered under the law?	IDEA: All children and youth requiring special education services until age 21 or graduation from high school.	504/ADA: All qualified persons with disabilities who, with or without reasonable accommodations, meet the college's admissions requirements and the specific entry-level criteria for the specific program and who can document the existence of a disability as defined by Section 504.	Not every student who received special education services under the IDEA will be a qualified individual with a disability under Section 504(e) or the ADA. And once admitted, not every request for accommodation will be deemed to be reasonable.
Who is responsible for identifying and documenting the need?	School districts are responsible for identifying and evaluating potential students with disabilities. When such a determination is made, the district plans educational services for classified students at no expense to the family.	Students are responsible for self-identification and for obtaining disability documentation from a professional who is qualified to assess their particular disability; cost of the evaluation must be assumed by the student, not the postsecondary institution.	Just because documentation is sent on behalf of students, does not mean the students will receive services without the student coming in to specifically request them.
Who is responsible for initiating service delivery?	School districts are responsible for identifying students with disabilities and providing special education programs and services, including related services, and transition services as delineated in	Students are responsible for notifying the Disability Support Services staff of their disability and of their need for reasonable accommodations. Accommodations (not special education) are provided on a	Students must request accommodations in a timely manner. Resource rooms are not a typical service in college.

	an Individualized	case-by-case, as-needed	
	Education	basis	
	Program.	for students with disabilities	
		to have equal access to the	
		institution's programs and	
		activities.	
Who is	IDEA is an entitlement	504/ADA: These are civil	
responsible for	law,	rights statutes overseen by	
enforcing the	enforced by the Office of	the Office for Civil Rights,	
law?	Special Education and	and the U.S. Department of	
	Rehabilitation Services	Justice in conjunction with	
	in the U.S. Department	the	
	of Education. Local	Equal Employment	
	enforcement is the	Opportunity	
	responsibility of the state	Commission.	
	department of education.		
What about	The parent or guardian	Students must be able to	Students must become
advocacy?	is the primary advocate.	self-identify and discuss their	selfadvocates
	Students with disabilities	disability and needs to work	at the college level.
	from age 14 on must be	with the disability support	
	invited to participate in the	staff to implement	
	individualized education	reasonable	
	program process. If the	accommodations. The Family	
	student does not attend,	Educational Rights Privacy	
	the	Act guarantees student	
	district must ensure that	confidentiality. Conversations	
	the	with parents regarding	
	student's preferences and	confidential information	
	interests are considered.	without	
		written consent from the	
		student are illegal.	